[0068] The playlist file, as described herein, is a generalized data file that is constructed by a user having a desired MP3 song sequence. The playlist file also includes disk path information to instruct the application as to where to locate the desired MP3 data. Certain operating systems permit users to change drive letters on-the-fly. Accordingly, the playlist software reads the volume serial number (VSN) given by the operating system to a particular drive. The serial number does not change (unless intentionally changed by reformatting the drive), and thus, the playlist software can track the playlist data regardless if the user reassigns a particular drive letter. This feature also works similarly with switchable devices such as disk drives.

[0069] It should be recognized by those skilled in the art that, although the above-described embodiments utilize a hardware-based OS selection (i.e., pressing main power button boots to Windows®, while pressing audio control button boots to mini-OS), other OS selection methods are contemplated, as well. Such selection methods include, e.g., using a batch file or other scripting or software-based method to shut down a first OS and boot to the second OS. Those skilled in the art will also recognize that the mini-OS of the present invention could conceivably be implemented as part of a larger OS (e.g., a GUI-based OS, such as Windows®, LINUX, etc.) or as a software component named something other than an "operating system", (e.g., a "driver", an "algorithm", a "script", "code", a "program", an "executable", a "routine", a "subroutine", a "utility", etc.), instead of being implemented as an entirely separate operating system. Such embodiments are contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention.

[0070] Although the present invention has been described in terms of the exemplary embodiments provided herein, it is to be understood that such disclosure is purely illustrative and is not to be interpreted as limiting. Consequently, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, various alterations, modifications, and/or alternative applications of the invention will, no doubt, be suggested to those skilled in the art after having read the preceding disclosure. Accordingly, it is intended that the following claims be interpreted as encompassing all alterations, modifications, or alternative applications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is: claims

1. A computer system adapted to play audio files, said computer system comprising:

a system CPU;

memory;

at least one drive comprising compressed audio data, said compressed audio data residing in one or more audio files;

a play list software program for selecting and storing a play list comprising one or more of said audio files, said play list containing information related to the location of said audio files including the volume serial number of the drive containing said audio file;

a first operating system adapted to control at least said system CPU and said memory; and

a second operating system, said second operating system being stored in BIOS and adapted to retrieve said play list and cause said drive to read at least one said audio file of said play list, to cause said system CPU to decompress the compressed audio data of said file and provide decompressed audio data, and to cause said decompressed audio data to be stored in said memory.

2. A computer system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a portable memory media device including a portable memory media reader and a portable memory device, wherein said playlist data being stored on said portable memory media.

3. A computer system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said portable memory media device selected from the group of Smart Card, PCMCIA, CardBus card and Memory Stick.

4. A computer system adapted to play audio files, said computer system comprising:

a system CPU;

memory;

a first drive comprising compressed audio data, said compressed audio data residing in one or more audio files;

a play list software program for selecting and storing a play list comprising one or more of said audio files, said play list stored on a second drive comprising portable memory media;

a first operating system adapted to control at least said system CPU and said memory; and

a second operating system, said second operating system being stored in BIOS and adapted to retrieve said play list and cause said drive to read at least one said audio file of said play list, to cause said system CPU to decompress the compressed audio data of said file and provide decompressed audio data, and to cause said decompressed audio data to be stored in said memory.

5. A computer system as claimed in claim 4, said play list containing information related to the location of said audio files including volume serial number of the drive containing said audio file.

6. A computer system as claimed in claim 4, said portable memory media device including a portable memory media reader and a portable memory device, wherein said playlist data being stored on said portable memory media.

7. A computer system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said portable memory media device selected from the group of Smart Card, PCMCIA, CardBus card and Memory Stick.

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